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by M. Sars; ed. G. O. Sars. 3. New Norwegian *Cœlenterata*, by Koren and Danielsen. 4. Norwegian *Pennatulidæ*, by Koren and Danielson. 5. New *Bryozoa*, by Koren and Danielson. 6. Norwegian *Gephyrea*, by Koren and Danielson. 7. A new species of the genus *Pennella*, by Koren and Danielson.—(F. L).

#### ANTHROPOLOGY.<sup>1</sup>

ANTHROPOLOGICAL NEWS.—Dr. George A. Otis, the curator of the U. S. Army Medical Museum, writes the following with reference to the work done at the museum under his charge: "Since January 1, 1878, Section IV, of the Army Medical Museum, has received specimens numbered from 1830 to 1952, inclusive, and comprising skeletons, crania and calvaria of American origin, with the exception of fifteen New Zealand calvaria transmitted from the Smithsonian Institution. These specimens have been carefully prepared, numbered and mounted; the principal measurements, in each case, made and recorded. Among the additions to the complete skeletons of American Indians was a series of seven Sioux, exhumed by Assistant Surgeon Corbusier; specimens from the shell-heaps of Florida, from Colorado and from Tennessee, of supposed pre-historic date, are of especial interest." The immense amount of work required by the Medical History of the War has exhausted all the funds appropriated for this institution. But Dr. Otis, with his trained assistants, has measured and mounted every important cranium which he has received, and has reconstructed from fragments many pre-historic skulls, an art in which he is exceedingly skillful. As soon as time and funds will allow, the results of these measurements will be laid before the scientific world.

The Rev. S. D. Peet, editor of the *American Antiquarian*, sends us his Prospectus, and it gives us great pleasure not only to draw attention to it, but to urge upon all lovers of American archæology to make sacrifices to sustain it. Mr. Peet, without State or Government patronage, has for years given his leisure freely to aboriginal history. It is due to him as well as to the subject which we love in common, that he be not left alone in the matter. The brilliant success achieved in anthropology in England and Germany, but most of all in France, is due mainly to the interest awakened by the periodicals devoted solely to this one subject. The advantage of a special organ ever disseminating our efforts throughout all the periodicals of the country is apparent to all. Mr. Peet's address is at present Unionville, O.

The New York *Herald*, of November 5th, contains a review of Col. Mallery's paper on the supposed decrease in the number of our aborigines. Having once drawn attention to this paper, our space and our duty to the truth will not allow us to refer to it again, lest mistaken zeal rob the truth of its reward. Col. Mal-

<sup>1</sup>Edited by Prof. OTIS T. MASON, Columbian College, Washington, D. C.

lery meant to say, and did say, that the Aborigines of America have been overestimated in numbers, that many tribes have been partly or wholly destroyed by whisky, disease and persecution, that others, after the first shock of contact, had continued to increase, and that, on the whole, there is not much difference between the present number of Indians and that of the "Discovery." The main argument of Col. Mallery was to show that, since the "necessary withering before the white man" is a fallacy, all efforts to help him to destruction are cruel and unpardonable.

We take great pleasure in recording the discovery of a large obsidian quarry, the largest yet found in America, in the Yellowstone National Park. Near the head of the middle fork of Gardiner's river, in the north-western part of the park, deposits of this rock nearly 600 feet in thickness and of unknown horizontal extent, were found. The discovery is reported by Mr. W. H. Holmes, assistant geologist of the Hayden Survey, who reports the finding of whole and broken implements, flakes and cores in great abundance.

In the November number of *Science News*, Dr. C. C. Abbott gives some valuable hints to collectors how to proceed in order to realize the full benefit of their work. Such cautions are exceedingly timely, coming from one who has devoted so much time in obeying his own instructions.

Dr. Emil Schmidt, of Essen, contributes to *Archiv für Anthropologie*, 1878, Parts 1, 2, an article of forty-two pages, on the pre-historic copper implements of North America. The article is illustrated by three plates and fifty-three figures, and is abundantly furnished with foot notes referring to the best authorities on the subject.

Through the kindness of Prof. J. Duncan Putnam we are in receipt of advanced sheets of the forthcoming Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences. Quite a large portion of the volume is devoted to a description of Mound excavations by Messrs. Pratt, Gass, Palmer and Harrison. Mr. W. W. Calkins read a paper, Feb. 28th, on the Shell-heaps of Florida.

Prof. Ph. Valentine has published *Vortrag über den Mexikanischen Calender-stein*, gehalten am 30 April 1878, in Republican Hall vor dem Deutsch ges. wissenschaftlichen Verein. New York, 1878.

Mr. G. Laurence Gomme, honorary secretary of the English Folk Lore Society, has written to the secretary of the Smithsonian Institution asking coöperation in carrying out the aims of the society. Perhaps there is no country where the facts of primitive culture are so easily accessible as our own. In addition to the fertile field offered by our aborigines, we have the negroes of the South, and the myth-preserving peasantry transported to our shores from all the lands of the earth. The NATURALIST will be

foremost in encouraging this as it has been with other branches of anthropological study.

The first number of Vol. viii, of the *Journal* of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, dated August, is an unusually interesting brochure. The paper which will prove most interesting to the general student is "On the coloring matter found in human hair," by H. C. Sorby. The author is begged to reconsider his statement that black hair is not made lighter by direct sunlight. Our black horses at the South all become a dirty brown color in August, and many will recall the foxy red hair of the little negroes that greeted the traveler at every wayside before the late war. Mr. W. St. Chad Boscawen makes a communication upon the Primitive culture of Babylonia, which reviews the evolution of the cuneiform writing. Other papers are: On the original range of the Papuan and Negrette races, by Francis A. Allen; The spread of the Slaves, Part 2, by H. H. Howorth.

The first and second quarterly parts of *Archiv für Anthropologie* for 1878, come at the same time. The paper on pre-historic copper implements of North America has already been noticed. The following titles may have some interest to special students: Upon the value of the frontal process (*spina frontalis squamæ ossis temporum*, *Stirnfortsatz der Schläfenschuppe*) as a race characteristic, by Dr. Ludwig Stieda; Upon the problem of the origin of marriage; Communications at the sessions of the Society of the Lower Rhine, by Prof. Schaafhausen; C. Von Baers' anthropological and geographical writings, by L. Stieda; Upon measuring and fixing the horizontal of the skull, by Prof. Schaafhausen. Bound up with *Archiv* are Nos. 9, 10 and 11 of *Correspondenz-Blatt*, giving a full account of the general meeting of the German Anthropological society at Constanz, 24-26 Sept. 1877. This is by far the most instructive part of the number, and lets us glance at the immense activity of our German brethren.

The October number of *Revue d'Anthropologie* contains the following original papers: Note on a pre-historic tumulus in Buenos Ayres, by Estasnilao Ceballos; Study of the Soninkes (Senegal), by Dr. Bérenger-Feraud; The Skulls of the blacks of India (tribe of Maravars), by E. Callamand; Note on the Bahnars (Cochin China), by Dr. A. Morice. The most valuable part of the number is that occupied by the description of the "International Congress of Anthropological Sciences; The following are given in full: Opening address, by Dr. Paul Broca; Report of anthropological societies, by M. Thulié; Report on general anthropology, by P. Topinard; Reports on ethnology, by MM. Girard de Rialle and Bordier; Reports on palæontology, by MM. G. de Mortillet, E. Cartailiac and E. Chautre; Report on demography, by M. Chervin.

The Société Impériale des Amis des Sciences Naturelles

d'Anthropologie et d'Ethnographie de Moscow has not only taken an active part in the Universal Exposition, but has also published a pamphlet giving a brief sketch of the society and the work which it has done for the ethnology of the countries within Russian territory.

#### GEOGRAPHY AND TRAVELS.<sup>1</sup>

UNKNOWN AFRICA.—M. H. Duveyrier has recently read a learned paper before the Paris Geographical Society in which he divides the unexplored portions of Africa into six great regions. These regions are: 1. The Sahara and the Libyan Desert, measuring 5,750,000 square kilometres, and notwithstanding its desolate aspect containing in its ancient populations and rich oases much of great interest. 2. In the west the country between the Joliba and the coast of Guinea, covering the surface of 1,200,000 square kilometres. 3. In the center north of the equator the upper courses and the sources of the Benué and the Shari composing an area of 800,000 square kilometres in which to seek to complete our knowledge of the basins of the Nile and the Shari, and to discover the sources of the latter and those of the Benué. 4. In the southern equatorial zone adjacent to the preceding and embracing the head waters of the Nile, the sources of the Ogowé and the basin of the Congo, extending over 2,000,000 square kilometres, some of the greatest problems of African geography remain to be decided. 5. In the south the basin of the Cunene and the districts about Angola and Benguela. 6. Finally, in the east, the region which forms a triangle culminating in Cape Gardafui whose interior is totally unexplored, and presents subjects of investigation not only geographical, but also historical of the highest interest.

Adding together the areas of these six great lacunæ we find they amount to upwards of 11,000,000 square kilometres—more than one-third of the African continent. But there is no reason to be discouraged at this large figure. Since the beginning of the present century the exploration of Africa has progressed at a mean rate of 234,285 square kilometres per year, and if it goes on at this rate, the whole of the African interior ought to be known in less than forty-eight years. But this calculation takes no account of the geometric progression of the figure of these discoveries which now produce in one year more than in the first twenty years of the century.

AFRICAN EXPLORATION.—Dr. Gerhard Rohlfs arrived at Tripolis on the 24th of October last. He expects to proceed early in December to Kufrah and thence to Wadai. He will then endeavor to trace the rivers Shari and Benué to their sources, and to explore the region intervening between them and the rivers

<sup>1</sup> Edited by ELLIS H. YARNALL, Philadelphia.